

For example, last year, a major toxicology laboratory was required to pay the government \$12 million in a False Claims Act qui tam case when it was found to have paid unlawful kickbacks to a marketer and health care provider in exchange for referrals for urine drug tests. The whistleblower-inspired investigation also led to a criminal indictment of individuals involved in the scheme and the establishment of a five-year Corporate Integrity Agreement with the Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Inspector General, which required the company to retain an Independent Review Organization to monitor its arrangements with individuals and other entities and to routinely report to the Office of Inspector General.

Those who blow the whistle on federal contractors are typically awarded 15 to 30 percent of the funds recovered by DOJ. One whistleblower collected \$4 million in a False Claims Act qui tam case on behalf of the government against two contractors that knowingly failed to comply with federal and state prevailing wage laws. The contractors agreed to correct their compensation practices, and their employees were paid back wages.

In these cases, whistleblowers brought the fraud to light, companies were held accountable, taxpayer funds were recovered, future misconduct was averted, and workers were made whole.

I want to thank my constituent Renee Brooker, partner at Tycko & Zavareei LLP and former Civil Frauds Assistant Director at DOJ for sharing her expertise on whistleblower law with my office.

Today, on National Whistleblower Appreciation Day, I ask my colleagues to recognize whistleblowers and to encourage more individuals to become whistleblowers.

IN HONOR OF SPECIAL AGENT
SCOTT D. PAYNE AND HIS RE-
TIREMENT FROM LAW ENFORCE-
MENT

HON. TIM BURCHETT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the career of newly retired Special Agent Scott D. Payne, who spent 28 years in law enforcement keeping our communities and our country safe.

Special Agent Payne started his law enforcement career in Greenville, South Carolina. He served in the Greenville County Sheriffs office for five years, working as a Uniform Patrol Officer and a Vice and Narcotics Investigator.

In 1998, he joined the FBI and became the primary undercover agent in many long-term undercover operations. He risked his safety to investigate violent motorcycle gangs, public corruption, murder for hire, drug trafficking organizations, and domestic terrorist groups with international ties. He was also an FBI SWAT Team Operator for over 7 years, diving head-first into dangerous situations to bring down violent criminals.

Special Agent Payne would go on to become an instructor in firearms, tactics, and undercover work. Thousands of law enforcement officers across the country were trained under

his leadership. He was also the Principal Tactical Instructor, Principle Defensive Tactics Instructor, and Lead Active Shooter Instructor for FBI Knoxville.

Special Agent Payne spent his career keeping folks safe, stopping criminals, and preparing the next generation of law enforcement officers for duty. I thank Special Agent Payne for his service. I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE CALIFORNIA DE-
PARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-
FAIRS' HOME LOAN PROGRAM

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs' Home Loan Program. For a century, this loan assistance program has helped veterans and their families realize the American dream of homeownership after returning from their service to our country.

The Farm and Home Loan Program was created on May 30, 1921, to thank California veterans for their service and sacrifice in World War I. This program identified homeownership as a foundational step towards transitioning to civilian life, establishing credit, and building a strong financial future for veterans and their families. Over the course of the last hundred years, the Home Loan Program has aided veterans throughout times of war and economic crisis, including the Great Depression, the Great Recession, and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

During its existence, the program has distributed more than \$8.5 billion in loans to over 425,000 veterans and expanded to serve a growing and diverse veteran population. Today, the Home Loan Program is renowned for some of the lowest foreclosure rates in the country, personalized service, and a comprehensive homeowners insurance plan; and continues to deliver exceptional customer service to veterans who would otherwise not qualify for a loan.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that my home state has been a pioneer in assisting veterans to secure housing and I congratulate the California Department of Veterans Affairs on their exceptional work throughout the decades. The Home Loan Program has been a lifeline to thousands of veterans over the past 100 years, and I know that it will continue to help veterans achieve homeownership for the next 100 to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted on Roll Call No. 245.

COMMEMORATING THE 56TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF MEDICARE AND
MEDICAID

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 56th Anniversary of the passage of Medicaid and Medicare, two of the most beneficial and consequential government programs ever launched.

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Medicare and Medicaid into law as part of the Social Security Act and in the process made good on the commitments made by Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and John Kennedy to provide health security to Americans in their old age.

Medicare is a promise kept to those who have contributed a lifetime to our nation could enjoy their golden years with peace of mind and the security of reliable, affordable, and high quality healthcare.

Likewise, Medicaid created a crucial partnership between the government and the people to provide a basic health care safety net for the most vulnerable Americans: children of adults with low incomes, persons with disabilities, and the poor.

Madam Speaker, 56 years later, the legacy of these programs have I proven how effective and critical government action can be to the life and wellbeing of our nation's most vulnerable.

In 1965, almost half of all Americans aged 65 and older had no health coverage, living in fear that the colossal healthcare costs would drive them and their families into poverty.

Today, because of Medicare, over 98 percent of seniors have health insurance, which has led to a five-year increase in life expectancy for those over 65.

Today, 55 million Americans rely on Medicare for health care, ranging from preventive services, hospital visits, lab tests, to critical medical supplies, and prescription drugs.

It is difficult for some to imagine what 1965 was really like, when today affordable, accessible and available health insurance is a reality for so many people living with disabilities.

Before Medicaid was enacted children from poor families, pregnant women, and low-income working Americans were not able to afford even the most basic medical care they needed to remain healthy and productive.

When the legislation was first passed, many claimed that Medicaid would not live up to its promise; but today, because of expansion of Medicaid through passage of the Affordable Care Act the program provides comprehensive coverage for over 70 million children, pregnant women, low-income adults, and people living with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, it cannot be seriously disputed that Medicare and Medicaid have changed our country and made it better.

In my home state of Texas and in communities across the country, both programs have significantly changed the lives and improved health outcomes of many Americans over the past century and represent the best of American values.

Unfortunately, Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured in the nation, and Texas'

refusal to participate in the Medicaid expansion created by the Affordable Care act puts the poor residents in my state in Jeopardy.

So the 56th anniversary of Medicaid is bittersweet for Texans because while we celebrate a program that has saved lives, helped people live longer, expanded care to marginalized communities, and reduced disparities in access to healthcare, thousands of low income Texans still do not have the peace of mind that comes with access to affordable, quality health care enjoyed by low-income residents of states that have expanded their Medicaid program with funds made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas there are 195,400 persons with Medicaid and 74,704 with medical care provided by Medicare.

Madam Speaker, my constituents favor the Affordable Care Act because they understand the insecurity and feeling of helplessness of being uninsured or underinsured.

Like Medicare and Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, or "Obamacare," was vehemently opposed and derided by its adversaries, who said it was too costly, would not work, was unnecessary, or would change the character of America for the worse.

Like the critics of Social Security, Medicare, and the G.I. Bill, all of whom are silent now, they are wrong.

The Affordable Care Act has been an unqualified success.

This historic legislation has extended affordable health coverage to tens of millions of Americans and has helped to bring peace of mind to many of those for whom relief seemed far out of reach.

The Affordable Care Act was driven by a simple premise: that citizens of the most prosperous nation on earth should not be forced to choose between their health and their financial security.

Since the passage of the ACA in 2010, the number of uninsured, Americans has fallen by nearly one-third, or roughly 16 million people.

These Americans come from all walks of life.

They are women, who can no longer be denied coverage or be forced to pay exorbitant amounts for coverage simply because of their sex.

They are nine million seniors and persons with disabilities, who have saved an average of \$1,600 on expensive and lifesaving prescription medication.

And they are this country's most at risk citizens; people who are working hard and struggling make ends meet while living in near-poverty, and who have been covered by Medicaid expansion in 32 states and the District of Columbia.

These benefits have been felt across the country, especially in my home state of Texas:

1. 10. 7 million individuals with pre-existing conditions such as asthma, cancer, or diabetes—including up to 1,632,000 children—no longer have to worry about being denied coverage or charged higher prices because of their health status or history;

2. 4.9 million uninsured Texans have new health insurance options through Medicaid or private health plans in the ACA Marketplace; and

3. 5.2 million persons on private insurance have gained coverage for at least one free preventive health care service such as a

mammogram, birth control, or an immunization in 2011 and 2012.

In addition to the tangible healthcare benefits for millions of families, the ACA has had powerful effects on the financial state of our nation.

Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, we have extended the solvency of the Medicare Trust fund by more than a decade and helped save taxpayers \$116 billion through new Medicare efficiencies.

The Department of Health and Human Services has estimated that hospitals saved more than \$5.7 billion in costs that would have normally gone unpaid by patients without insurance.

Contrary to the claims of the ACA's critics, private insurance companies have leaped at the opportunity to compete for business among the newly insured, and the healthcare industry has boomed.

Through all of these successes, however, House Republicans remained obsessed with destroying this law, and unraveling the security it provides to millions of Americans.

Medicare and Medicaid also continue to drive innovation and set the standard for coverage, quality, and innovation in American healthcare.

Madam Speaker, Medicare and Medicaid continue to play crucial roles in providing equitable and affordable healthcare, leading innovation in payment and delivery reform, carrying out outreach to the most vulnerable communities, and reshaping the delivery of care for the future.

Because of these programs, more Americans have access to affordable, equitable health care today than at any point in our history.

And I am committed to making sure that number will continue to grow.

On this 56th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid, we should remember that a healthy America is a prosperous America.

And as we look ahead to the next half century, we can celebrate that what was put in place in 1965 has given us the foundation for a healthy and prosperous future for all Americans.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASHLEE WARD ON HER INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor former athlete, coach, and Northeastern Pennsylvania native Ashlee Ward. Ashlee will be inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2021 for her distinct athletic achievements in the sport of track and field. She and her fellow inductees will be honored at a reception on August 8, 2021.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

At Meyers High School, Ashlee was a star member of the track and field team. She held

the records in high jump and discus. At the PIAA District 2 Championship in 2007, she was the high jump champion and placed fourth in discus. She went on to take eighth place in high jump at the PIAA State Championship. The following year, Ashlee again came out on top to take first place in high jump at the District 2 Championship, as well as second place in discus. She was sixth in the state for the high jump. In 2009, she placed second in high jump and third in discus at the District Championships and ninth in the state for high jump. Her senior year, she was crowned the District 2 Champion in both discus and high jump, and she was second in the state for high jump and fourth in discus.

While at Misericordia University, she held the school records in high jump and discus as well as the Middle Atlantic Conference indoor and outdoor high jump records. Her freshman year, at the MAC Indoor Championships, she was runner-up in high jump, and at the MAC Outdoor Championship, she was named Field Athlete of the Year and Champion in high jump and discus. At the NCAA Outdoor qualifier, she was 12th in high jump; at the Eastern College Athletic Conference Indoor Championship, she placed sixth in the high jump; and at the Outdoor Championship, she earned A11-ECAC outdoor honors after placing fifth in the high jump, as well as 11th in discus.

Her sophomore year, she was named the MAC Outdoor Champion in high jump and discus as well as the MAC Indoor Runner Up in high jump. She also participated in the Indoor and Outdoor ECAC Championships and the NCAA District III Outdoor Championships. As a junior, she continued to dominate the MAC as the Indoor Champion in high jump and the Outdoor Champion in high jump and discus. She also placed in the top five at both the indoor and outdoor ECAC Championships in high jump.

Ashlee had an incredibly successful senior season. She was the MAC Indoor High Jump Champion as well as the MAC Outdoor High Jump Champion and runner up in discus. She went on to compete at the ECAC Outdoor Championships, winning the gold in high jump and placing seventh in discus. She triumphed at the NCAA Division III Indoor and Outdoor Championships, placing first in high jump at both contests. For her efforts, she was named the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Women's Athlete of the Year for the Mideast Region.

It is an honor to recognize Ashlee on her induction into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame. May her story and athletic career serve as an inspiration to the next generation of Pennsylvania athletes striving for excellence.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM "BILL" ZAMMER

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2021

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the life of William "Bill" Zammer, an entrepreneur and devoted philanthropist on Cape Cod.

A native of Norristown, Pennsylvania, Bill was widely known throughout his adopted home of Cape Cod as a leader in the hospitality industry. He was equally known for his